



Wednesday Prayer

9th Sunday after Pentecost – Together with All the Lord’s Holy People

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

Wouldn’t it be great if every child who is exploited or trafficked knew going into and throughout that experience how much God loved them? And if God is all-powerful, why can’t God just *instill* His power into each child who finds themselves being held against their will by nefarious actors? The answers to these questions baffle me when I read and pray the words in Ephesians 3:16-19. I was raised in a chaotic home, *and* I am a survivor of sexual assault at gunpoint which nearly ended my life. I have no memories of idyllic Sunday mornings where smiling volunteer teachers told me God loves me *no matter what*. As a kid, I never heard about God’s transforming grace and what it means to be “rooted and established” in His love. Yet I still dedicated my memoir “to all the children who grew up in (dysfunctional) homes and for the strength they carried into adulthood.” Seven decades later, I now know how resilient children are. And I know God was always giving me strength to cope and a will to live, even if I didn’t know how or why at the time.

Sometimes it seems like we are playing a twisted game of Whack-A-Mole: while *some* kids are spared from abuse, exploitation or trafficking, there is an endless supply of bad actors and crime rings popping up to seek out children. But we can pray these verses in Ephesians and remember that God has already won this battle with a love that is beyond our human comprehension. We must continue to raise awareness among youngsters, so they recognize deceit for what it is: lies and false promises that can lead to entrapment. I may be only one foot soldier in a terrible war, but “together with all the Lord’s holy people,” I can trust in the width and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that we will one day end sex trafficking of minors.

Saving Lord, equip us with the words and actions to reach adults who care and will act, and to reach children who are vulnerable. With Your power, Lord, we continue working to bring Your kingdom into this hurting world. Amen.

Written by Meg Corrigan, Christian author, speaker and survivor. Visit www.MegCorrigan.com or email her at MegCorrigan@comcast.net to learn more.

If you are interested in being a Wednesday Prayer guest writer, please reach out to joy.mcelroy@cherishallchildren.org.